



News Release

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WESTERN ANNOUNCES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 11, 2006—Missouri Western State University announces student achievements:

- The 2005 Griffon Yearbook took third place in Overall Excellence and third place for Theme Development at the Missouri Collegiate Media Association. Griffon Yearbook individual winners include: Melissa Searce, junior criminal justice major from St. Joseph, Mo., third place for portrait design; Diamikia White, senior English major from Kansas City, Mo.; and Ella Howser, senior accounting major from Dixon, Mo.; third place for sports design. Searce, White, and Howser, third place for student life design. White and Howser, honorable mention for student life design. Jared Herrin, senior English major from Trenton, Mo., honorable mention for feature writing. Amy Chastain, junior English major from Cowgill, Mo., third place for personality sketch. Searce, and Jenny Olson, senior English major from St. Joseph, Mo., honorable mention for personality sketch.
- Jackie Clark was named Western's 2006 Robert J. Greef Award winner. Clark, a December 2005 BSE English honors graduate from St. Joseph, was one of fifteen outstanding recent graduates selected to receive the award at the Conference from the Missouri Association of Teachers of English.
- Nicole Hecker, sophomore art major; Amber Hecker, freshman psychology major; and Danyel Becker, freshman self-enrichment major, all of St. Joseph, Mo., received second place in the banner contest for their depiction of "Saddle Up and Ride," *Home of the Pony Express* banner at the Association of

Information Technology Professional's National Collegiate Conference in Dallas.

- Nine Western psychology students participated in the Great Plains Students Psychology Convention that was held at Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg. Ghazala Saleem, senior psychology major from Mound City, Mo.; and Rachel Beck, junior psychology major from St. Joseph; received second place in the Diversity Issues session for a paper entitled "Globalization and College Students: Positive Diversity Attitudes as Predictors of Higher Scores on Diversity Measures." Virginia Herrera, senior elementary education major from Hiawatha, Kan., presented a poster, "Diversity and the College Student: Experiences that Help Them Grow." Ashleigh L. Hicks, senior social work major from St. Joseph, received second place in the social psychology session for her poster entitled "Doughnuts ... Anyone? A Look at Conformity Patterns and Food Related Behaviors Among Female College Students." Jamie McPhail, senior psychology major from St. Joseph, presented a poster "Personal Attribution in Disasterous Events: Locus of Control in Natural and Man-Made Events." Lynda Oshel, freshman psychology major from King City, Mo.; and John Waller, senior psychology major from St. Joseph; presented a poster "The Type D (Distressed) Personality: Biopsychosocial Outcomes." Professors who sponsored the students were Dr. Teddi Deka, associate professor of psychology; Dr. Phil Wann, professor of psychology; and Dr. Patricia Marsh, assistant professor of psychology.
- Three teams of mathematics students participated in the Missouri Collegiate Mathematics Competition held at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Team A consisted of Dan Cassity, junior mathematics major from St. Joseph; Therese Hand, senior computer science major from Golden, Colo.; and Whitney Schell, senior mathematics major from Bethany, Mo. Team B consisted of Jason Briscoe, junior mathematics major from Kansas City, Mo.; Marian Broderick, senior mathematics major from Wichita, Kan., and Taylor Talbott, senior computer science major from Smithville, Mo. Both teams were in the top half of the 35 teams that participated. Also participating were Jason Pettijohn of St.

Joseph and Randall Siddens of Marceline, Mo. Dr. Jeff Poet, assistant professor of math, and Dr. Don Vestal, associate professor of math, accompanied the students to Columbia.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.